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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMENDS LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS DURING AWARD CEREMONIES

Hilda Legg, Administrator for Rural Utilities Service and Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, visited Troy, MO on Thursday, October 21, 2004. Presentations of mock checks were made to the City of Foley, City of Hawk Point, Village of Silex, and Village of Whiteside, as part of the USDA Rural Development Ceremony.

Branum said, "Having an environmentally safe water and wastewater system is important to the residents of these communities and I commend all the partners for their hard work in making these projects a reality. These projects mirror President Bush's initiatives and exemplify the Rural Development mission – Committed to the Future of Rural Communities."

Legg and Branum presented mock checks at 11:00 AM at the Lincoln County Courthouse, Troy, MO. Rural Development provided funds as part of the agency's Pre-Development Planning Grant Program which helps communities finance engineering reports and environmental reviews.



Pictured left to right: Kacky Garner, district director for Senator Talent; James Mitas, project coordinator for Representative Tom Akin; Hilda Legg, RUS Administrator; Sophie Stonebraker and Mayor Billie Piechoinski representing Foley; Carol Crouse and Alfred Colpert representing Whiteside; Diane Ingram, Mayor Bob Heath, and Johnnie Baker representing Hawk Point; Chairman Bob Momphard, Maureen Livingston, and David Rice representing Silex, and Greg Branum Rural Development State Director.



Pictured left to right: Hilda Legg, RUS Administrator; Robin McWilliams of MACO and site manager Leslie Hooten representing Pin Oak Grove; Kacky Garner, district director for Senator Talent; project coordinator for Representative Akin; Greg Branum, Missouri State Director and James Mitas, project coordinator for Representative Tom Akin.

"We look forward to assisting these communities in putting the plan into action. What we really want to see is rural people getting access to clean safe drinking water and sanitary waste disposal. These planning grants are just the first step in a long journey. The real benefits come when the pipe goes into the ground and houses receive the full benefits of reliable water and sewer services," said Hilda Legg.

"The Rural Development grant is paying for 75% of the engineering and environmental expenses. Each community's contribution will be 25% of the costs. These communities were fortunate to have Boonslick Regional Planning Commission assist them with the grant applications."

The City of Foley, City of Hawk Point, and Village of Silex, have each received a grant award of \$12,740. The Village of Whiteside received \$13,500 in grant funds.

In addition to the check presentations for these rural communities, Pin Oak Apartments was awarded with a check for \$339,780 to rehabilitate and improve the 72 multi-family housing units located on Forsythe Circle at

Troy, MO. Construction and improvements are already being made to the complex.

Branum added, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Todd Akin for making available federal monies for funding these types of projects providing essential services for the communities. ”

For more information on the USDA Rural Development programs contact the Rural Development staff at 636/528-7046 ext. 4; ed.reed@mo.usda.gov; 114 Frenchman Bluff Road, Troy, MO 63379. Check the USDA Rural Development web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo for more information.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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